SS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

(					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDAN	TS	
ALBERT DIETL			DISCOVER inclusive	FINANCIAL SERVICES,	INC. and DOES 1-10,
(b) County of Residence	e of First Listed Plaintiff	Philadelphia	County of Reside	ence of First Listed Defendant	Lake
•	EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES	
				LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, U AND INVOLVED.	SE THE LOCATION OF THE
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	e, Address, and Telephone Numb	ber)	Attorneys (1f Kno		
Jody B. Burton,Esq., Le				ce, Jr., Esq., Keith B. Jos	
St., 3rd Floor, Stamford II. BASIS OF JURISI			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1735 Market St, Phila., DF PRINCIPAL PARTIES	
☐ 1 U.S. Government	☐ 3 Federal Question		(For Diversity Cases O	only) PTF DEF	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citizen of This State	■ 1 Incorporated or P of Business In Th	rincipal Place
☐ 2 U.S. Government	🗷 4 Diversity		Citizen of Another State	☐ 2 ☐ 2 Incorporated and	
Defendant	(Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item Itt)		of Business In	Another State
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 Soreign Nation	
IV. NATURE OF SUI		Only)	FORFEITURE/PENAL	TY BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
□ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	☐ 610 Agriculture	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 400 State Reapportionment
☐ 120 Marine	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	☐ 362 Personal Injury -	☐ 620 Other Food & Drug ☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure	□ 423 Withdrawal e 28 USC 157	☐ 410 Antitrust☐ 430 Banks and Banking
☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	Med. Malpractice  ☐ 365 Personal Injury -	of Property 21 USC 8	881	☐ 450 Commerce
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment		Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal	☐ 630 Liquor Laws ☐ 640 R.R. & Truck	PROPERTY RIGHTS  ☐ 820 Copyrights	460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and
151 Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers'	Injury Product	☐ 650 Airline Regs.	☐ 830 Patent	Corrupt Organizations
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability 340 Marine	Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY	G 660 Occupational Safety/Health	☐ 840 Trademark	☐ 480 Consumer Credit☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV
(Excl. Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product	2 370 Other Fraud	☐ 690 Other		☐ 810 Selective Service
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability  350 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal	☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL SECURITY  ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)	850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	Property Damage	Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	☐ 875 Customer Challenge
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability  360 Other Personal	☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	☐ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relatio ☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporti		12 USC 3410
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	I pote as up perferance	& Disclosure Act	865 RS1 (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS	891 Agricultural Acts 392 Economic Stabilization Act
☐ 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS  441 Voting	PRISONER TITIONS  3 510 Motions to Vacate	☐ 740 Railway Labor Act ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation		893 Environmental Matters
220 Foreclosure	442 Employment	Sentence Habeas Corpus:	☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	or Defendant) ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party	894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information
☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land	443 Housing/ Accommodations	□ 530 General	Security Act	26 USC 7609	Act
☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 444 Welfare ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Other	IMMIGRATION  462 Naturalization Applic	cation	900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access
250 All Other Real Floperty	Employment	550 Civil Rights	☐ 463 Habeas Corpus -		to Justice
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	555 Prison Condition	Alien Detainee  465 Other Immigration		☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	440 Other Civil Rights		Actions		
🗇 1 Original 💆 2 Re			4 Kellistated of [] 3	Fransferred from 6 Multidistr	
Proceeding St	ate Court  Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	Appellate Court	REODENEO .	tional statutes unless diversity):	Judgment
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON Brief description of ca	ause:			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:   Yes  No
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE		, SIGNATURE OF ATTO	ORNEY OF RECORD		
08/06/2010	$\supset$	eith B.	Joseph .		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					acr.
RECEIPT # A	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDG	GE MAG. JUI	JGE

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/07)

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

#### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- 1. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.

  Example:

  U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
  Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA - DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. 457 Robbins Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111 Address of Plaintiff: 2500 Lake Cook Road, Riverwoods, IL 60015 Address of Defendant: Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Philadelphia County. PA (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? Yes No 🔀 (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) No 🔼 Yes□ Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Judge Date Terminated: Case Number: \_\_\_\_ Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes No 🗷 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously Yes□ No. terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? Yes 🗆 No CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 1. 

Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. 

Airplane Personal Injury 2. D FELA 3. □ Assault, Defamation 3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. 

Antitrust □ Marine Personal Injury 5. 

Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 5. 
Patent 6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please 6. □ Labor-Management Relations specify) 7. Products Liability 7. 

Civil Rights 8. 

Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases 9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases 10. □ Social Security Review Cases Unfair Trade Practices (Please specify) 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) , counsel of record do hereby certify: L Keith B. Joseph X Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; ☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought. 203997 DATE: August 6, 2010 Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D.# NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

Attorney-at-Law

DATE: August 6, 2010

Attorney I.D.#

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

**CIVIL ACTION** 

Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address		
(215) 665-8500	(215) 864-8999		m	
August 6, 2010 Date	Keith R. Joseph, Esquire Attorney-at-law	Attorney for Defendan	t	
· ·		DISCOVER FINANCIAI SERV	. ,	
(f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (x)				
commonly referred to	- Cases that do not fall into tracks as complex and that need special e side of this form for a detailed e	or intense management by	( )	
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.				
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )				
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. (				
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.				
SELECT ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING CASE MANAG	EMENT TRACKS:		
plaintiff shall complete a filing the complaint and so side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant the plaintiff and all other	Case Management Track Designative a copy on all defendants. (See all event that a defendant does not shall, with its first appearance,	teduction Plan of this court, counstion Form in all civil cases at the ties \$1:03 of the plan set forth on the rest agree with the plaintiff regarding submit to the clerk of court and set k Designation Form specifying the ed.	ime of everse g said rve on	
and DOES 1-10, i		NO.		
v.	Plaintiff, :			

(Civ. 660) 10/02

ALBERT DIETL,

#### Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

#### SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

:

ALBERT DIETL,

Plaintiff,

NO.

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

v.

Dofondonto

Defendants.

:

### DEFENDANT DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES'S CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 7.1(a)

Defendant Discover Financial Services ("Discover"), now known as DFS Services LLC, by its undersigned counsel hereby submits this Corporate Disclosure Statement pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1(a) and states as follows:

- 1. Discover is a non-governmental entity.
- 2. Discover is a publicly traded independent company incorporated in Delaware with its principle place of business at 2500 Lake Cook Road, Riverwoods, IL.
  - 3. No public entity owns 10% or more of Discover's stock.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin C. Bryce, Jr. (PA I.D. #59409)

Keith B. Joseph (PA I.D. #203997)

Bryce@ballardspahr.com JosephK@ballardspahr.com

Ballard Spahr LLP

1735 Market Street, 51st Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103 Telephone: 215.665.8500 Facsimile: 215.864.8999

Attorneys for Defendant Discover Financial

Services

Dated: August 6, 2010

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ALBERT DIETL,

Plaintiff,

v.

NO.

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES and
DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

## DEFENDANT DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES'S CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 7.1(a)

Defendant Discover Financial Services ("Discover"), now known as DFS Services LLC, by its undersigned counsel hereby submits this Corporate Disclosure Statement pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1(a) and states as follows:

- 1. Discover is a non-governmental entity.
- 2. Discover is a publicly traded independent company incorporated in Delaware with its principle place of business at 2500 Lake Cook Road, Riverwoods, IL.
  - 3. No public entity owns 10% or more of Discover's stock.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin C. Bryce, Jr. (PA I.D. #59409)

Keith B. Joseph (PA I.D. #203997)

Bryce@ballardspahr.com JosephK@ballardspahr.com

Ballard Spahr LLP

1735 Market Street, 51st Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103 Telephone: 215.665.8500 Facsimile: 215.864.8999

Attorneys for Defendant Discover Financial

Services

Dated: August 6, 2010

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ALBERT DIETL,

Plaintiff,

NO.

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

v.

Defendants.

:

#### **NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

Defendant Discover Financial Services ("Discover"), now known as DFS

Services LLC, hereby gives notice of removal of the above-captioned action, Case No. 201001582, currently pending in the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Removal is based on 28

U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441. Discover is a Defendant in this action, along with unidentified additional Defendants Does 1-10 (the "Doe Defendants").

As grounds for removal, Discover states the following:

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. On or about May 12, 2010, Plaintiff Albert Dietl ("Plaintiff"), filed a Complaint ("Complaint") with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania (the "State Court Action"). The State Court Action was assigned Case No. 2010-01582.

- 2. Plaintiff is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Compl., ¶ 3.
- 3. Plaintiff alleges he incurred a debt to Discover related to the use of a personal credit card. Id. at  $\P$  7.
- 4. Plaintiff further alleges that Discover and the Doe Defendants made excessive calls to him both at his home and at his place of employment in an attempt to collect this debt. *Id.* at ¶ 10-12.
- 5. Plaintiff alleges that although he informed Discover and the Doe Defendants that his employer prohibited such phone calls during work hours, he still received these phone calls. *Id.* at  $\P$  13.
- 6. Plaintiff alleges that he sent a "cease and desist" letter to Discover requesting that the phone calls end, but that Discover and the Doe Defendants continued to contact Plaintiff. *Id.* at ¶ 16.
- 7. Plaintiff alleges that during these phone calls, the callers never identified themselves, used obscene or profane language, and aggressively pursued the collection of the debt. *Id.* at ¶ 15, 17.
- 8. Plaintiff asserts claims for violations of Pennsylvania's Fair Credit Extension Uniformity Act, 73 P.S. §§ 2270.1 *et seq.*, Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. §§ 201-1 *et seq.*, and invasion of privacy by intrusion upon seclusion. *Id.* at ¶¶ 19-39.

•

- 9. The Complaint seeks damages in excess of the local arbitration limits, lactual damages, treble damages, punitive damages, statutory damages and attorneys' fees. *Id.*, p. 6. The Civil Cover Sheet Plaintiff filed with his Complaint provides that he is seeking in excess of \$50,000.00 in damages.
- 10. Discover is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Riverwoods, Illinois, and thus is deemed a citizen of Delaware and Illinois for the purposes of diversity jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

#### STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS -- TRADITIONAL DIVERSITY REMOVAL

- 11. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, removal is appropriate if the parties are completely diverse in citizenship and the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds \$75,000.00. These requirements are met in this case.
- 12. <u>Citizenship of Parties</u>. The parties are of completely diverse citizenship with respect to the Plaintiff's claims. Plaintiff is a citizen of Pennsylvania. Compl., ¶ 3. Discover is a citizen of Delaware and Illinois. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).
- 13. <u>Amount in Controversy</u>. The amount in controversy with respect to Plaintiff's claims against Defendants exceeds \$75,000.00. Plaintiff's Complaint seeks damages in excess of \$50,000.00, punitive damages, treble damages and attorneys' fees. Additionally, as he also seeks statutory damages of \$1,000.00 per violation and alleges there were over twenty-five violations, Plaintiff seeks statutory damages in excess of \$25,000.00. Compl., p.6.; *Id.* at ¶

3

In the Court of Common Pleas for Philadelphia County, all actions in which the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, is \$50,000.00 or less are required to be submitted to arbitration. Phila. Cty. L. R. 1301.

11.

#### PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AND LOCAL RULES

- 14. Removal to Proper Court. This Court is part of the "district and division" embracing the place where this action was filed Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).
- 15. Removal is Timely. Discover was served with the Complaint on July 7, 2010. Receipt of the Complaint was the first notice of the State Court Action or federal jurisdiction received by Discover. This Notice of Removal is being filed with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on August 6, 2010, within 30 days after receipt of the State Court Action Complaint by Discover.
- 16. <u>Pleadings and Process</u>. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a copy of all process, pleadings and orders served upon Discover in the State Court Action. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).
- 17. Notice. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a copy of a Notice of Removal to Adverse Parties, which promptly will be served upon Plaintiff's counsel and filed with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1446(a), (d). Discover also will file with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, a Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). A copy of the Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 18. <u>Consent to Removal</u>. The Doe Defendants have never been served with process. The consent of the Doe Defendants, therefore, is not necessary before this action may

be removed to federal court. *See Brown v. JEVIC*, 575 F.3d 322, 327 (3d Cir. 2009) (noting a defendant who has not been served with process need not consent to removal (citations omitted).

- 19. <u>Signature</u>. This Notice of Removal is signed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.11. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a).
- 20. <u>Bond and Verification</u>. Pursuant to Section 1016 of the Judicial Improvements and Access to Justice Act of 1988, no bond is required in connection with this Notice of Removal. Pursuant to Section 1016 of the Act, this Notice need not be verified.
- 21. Based upon the foregoing, this Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, and the claims may be removed to this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

WHEREFORE, this action should proceed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania as an action properly removed thereto from the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin C. Bryce, Jr. (PAI.D. #59409)

Keith B. Joseph (PA I.D. #203997)

Bryce@ballardspahr.com JosephK@ballardspahr.com

Ballard Spahr LLP

1735 Market Street, 51st Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103 Telephone: 215.665.8500 Facsimile: 215.864.8999

Attorneys for Defendant Discover Financial Services

Dated: August 6, 2010

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this  $6^{th}$  day of August, 2010, I have caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing to be served on the following via first-class mail:

Jody B. Burton, Esquire Lemberg & Associates LLC 1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Stamford, CT 06905

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Keith B. Joseph

## EXHIBIT A



Service of Process **Transmittal** 

07/07/2010

CT Log Number 516905289

TO: Legal Intake

Discover Financial Services, Inc.

2500 Lake Cook Road Riverwoods, IL 60015

RE: Process Served In Illinois

Discover Financial Services (Domestic State: DE) FOR:

#### ENGLOSED ARE COPIES OF LEGAL PROCESS RECEIVED BY THE STATUTORY AGENT OF THE ABOVE COMPANY AS FOLLOWS:

Albert Dietl, Pltf. vs. Discover Financial Services, et al., Dfts. TITLE OF ACTION

DOCUMENT(S) SERVED: Notice, Complaint, Cover Sheet

COURT/AGENCY: Philadelphia County Common Pleas Court, PA Case # 100501582

Violations of the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension uniformity act - Violation of the NATURE OF ACTION:

Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law

ON WHOM PROCESS WAS SERVED: C T Corporation System, Chicago, IL

DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICE: By Process Server on 07/07/2010 at 14:20

Within 20 days APPEARANCE OR ANSWER DUE

Jody B. Burton ATTORNEY(\$) / SEMDER(\$):

Lemberg & Associates L.L.C. 1100 Summer Street, 3rd Floor Stamford, CT 06905

203-653-2250

**ACTION ITEMS:** CT has retained the current log, Retain Date: 07/07/2010, Expected Purge Date:

07/12/2010

Image SOP
Email Notification, Legal Intake dfslegalservice@discover.com

C T Corporation System Tim Light SIGNED: PER

ADDRESS: 208 South LaSalle Street

Suite 814 Chicago, IL 60604 312-345-4336 TELEPHONE:

Court of Common-Pleas-		For Prothonotan	Use Only (Docket Number)		
Trial D	ivision	MAY 2010	004562		
Civil Cov	er Sheet	E-Filling Number: 1005013119	001582		
PLAINTIFF'S NAME ALBERT DIETL		DEFENDANTS NAME DISCOVER FINANCIAL S	SERVICES		
PLAINTIFFS ADDRESS 457 ROBBINS ST PHILADELPHIA PA 19111		DEFENDANTS ADDRESS 2500 LAKE COOK RD RIVERWOODS IL 60015			
PLAINTIFF'S NAME		DEFENDANTS NAME			
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		DEFENDANTS ADDRESS			
PLAINTIFF'S NAME		DEFENDANT'S NAME	DEFENDANT'S NAME		
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		DEFENDANTS ADDRESS			
TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS TOT	TAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS	COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION    Complaint	ion		
☐ \$50,000.00 or less ☐ Art ☐ Jur ☐ More than \$50,000.00 ☐ No	y 🔲 Sav	ss Tort Commerce rings Action Minor Cour ition Statutory A			
CASE TYPE AND CODE  10 - CONTRACTS OTHER  STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF ACTION					
RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST BY CASE CA		FILED PRO PROTHY	IS CASE SUBJECT TO COORDINATION ORDER? YES NO		
		MAY <b>12</b> 2010 s. garrett			
TO THE PROTHONOTARY: Kindly enter my appearance on b Papers may be served at the addre		Appellant: ALBERT DIETL			
NAME OF PLAINTEF S/PETITIONER'S/APPELL JODY B. BURTON	ANT'S ATTORNEY	ADDRESS 1100 SUMMER ST STAMFORD CT 06905			
PHONE NUMBER (203) 659-3424	FAX NUMBER (203) 653-3424				
SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO. 71681		E-MAL ADDRESS jburton@lemberglaw	. com		
SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY  JODY BURTON		DATE SUBMITTED Wednesday, May 12,	DATE SUBMITTED Wednesday, May 12, 2010, 09:24 am		

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA

Filed and Attested by prophology by a propholo

#### NOTICE TO DEFEND

#### NOTICE

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filling in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint of for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

Philadelphia Bar Association
Lawyer Referral
and Information Service
One Reading Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
(215) 238-6333
TTY (215) 451-6197

#### **AVISO**

Le han demandado a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las paginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) dias de plazo al partir de la fecha de la demanda y la notificacion. Hace falta ascentar una comparencia escrita o en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objeciones a las demandas en contra de su persona. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, la corte tomara medidas y puede continuar la demanda en contra suya sin previo aviso o notificacion. Ademas, la corte puede decider a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla con todas las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puede per der dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted.

Lleve esta demanda a un abogado immediatamente. Si no tiene abogado o si no tiene el dinero suficiente de pagar tal servicio. Vaya en persona o llame por telefono a la oficina cuya direccion se encuentra escrita abajo para averiguar donde se puede conseguir asistencia legal.

Asociacion De Licenciados
De Filadelfia
Servicio De Referencia E
Informacion Legal
One Reading Center
Filadelfia, Pennsylvania 19107
(215) 238-6333
TTY (215) 451-6197

Case ID: 100501582

COMMONWEALTH OF FERNISTLVANIA COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY JUDICIAL DIS	TRICT riled and the steet by
Albert Dietl,	Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff, v.	: : :
Discover Financial Services; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	COMPLAINT
Defendants.	· : :

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Albert Dietl, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity Act, 73 P.S. § 2270, et seq., the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. § 201-1, et seq., and the invasion of Plaintiff's invasion of personal privacy by the Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
- 2. Venue is proper in this District in that the Plaintiff resides in Philadelphia County, and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in Philadelphia County.

#### **PARTIES**

3. The Plaintiff, Albert Dietl ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 73 P.S. § 2270.3.

- 4. The Defendant, Discover Financial Services ("Discover"), is an Illinois business entity with an address of 2500 Lake Cook Road, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 5. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Discover and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
  - 6. Discover at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

#### ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

#### A. The Debt

- 7. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to the Defendant (the "Creditor") in connection with the use of a personal credit card.
- 8. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 9. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in a "communications" as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.

#### B. Discover Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 10. The Defendants made excessive calls to the Plaintiff.
- 11. The Defendants called the Plaintiff over twenty-five (25) times within two weeks.
- 12. The Defendants called the Plaintiff, who works as a security guard, at his place of employment up to six times.

Case ID: 100501582

- 13. The Plaintiff explained to the Defendants that due to the nature of his line of work, his employer prohibits such communications and he cannot take personal telephone calls during work hours. The Defendants, however, continued to contact the Plaintiff.
- 14. As a result of the numerous telephone communications from the Defendants, the Plaintiff was spoken to by his supervisor. The Plaintiff's supervisor explained that if the telephone calls from the Defendants continued, it would be grounds for termination.
  - 15. The Defendants do not identify themselves during telephone communications.
- 16. The Plaintiff mailed a cease and desist letter to the Defendants via certified mail, return receipt requested, requesting that the Defendants cease all telephone communications.

  The Defendants however, continued to contact the Plaintiff.
- 17. The Defendants used obscene or profane language while speaking with the Plaintiff and aggressively demanded payment of the Debt.
- 18. The Plaintiff has suffered actual damages as a result of the Defendants' illegal collection communications in the form of humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration, embarrassment, amongst other negative emotions, as well as suffering from unjustified and abusive invasions of personal privacy at the Plaintiff's home.

#### COUNT I

## <u>UNIFORMITY ACT, 73 P.S. § 2270, ET SEQ.</u>

- 19. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
  - 20. The Plaintiff is a "consumer," as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.

- 21. The Defendants are each individually a "debt collector" as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 22. The Defendants violated provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq., which constitutes an unfair or deceptive practice under 73 P.S. § 2270.4(a).
- 23. The Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at times and places known, or which should be known, to be inconvenient to them, in violation of 73 P.S. §2270.4(b)(2)(i).
- 24. The Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at the consumer's place of employment in which the creditor knew or had reason to know that the consumer's employer prohibited the consumer from receiving such communication in violation of 73 P.S. §2270.4(b)(2)(iii).
- 25. The Defendants used obscene or profane language or language of which the natural consequence was to abuse the Plaintiff in violation of 73 P.S. §2270.4(b)(4)(ii).
- 26. The Defendants caused a telephone to ring with the intent to annoy the Plaintiff at the called number in violation of 73 P.S. §2270.4(b)(4)(v).
  - 27. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendants' violations.

#### COUNT II

### INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

- 28. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 29. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."

- 30. Pennsylvania further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus the Defendants violated Pennsylvania state law.
- 31. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing Plaintiff with numerous telephone calls.
- 32. The telephone calls made by the Defendants to Plaintiff were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered, "hounding the plaintiff," and, "a substantial burden to her existence," thus satisfying the Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) requirement for an invasion of privacy.
- 33. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 34. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from the Defendants.
- 35. All acts of the Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

#### **COUNT IV**

### <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, 73 P.S. § 201-1, ET SEQ.</u>

- 36. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 37. The Defendants' violations of the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity

  Act constitute per se violations under the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer

  Protection Law.

- 38. The Defendants' acts were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law.
- 39. As a result of the Defendants' violations, the Plaintiff has suffered ascertainable losses entitling the Plaintiff to actual, statutory and treble damages, as well as costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants awarding Plaintiff:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 73 P.S. §201-9.2(a) against the Defendants;
- Statutory damages of \$1000.00 per violation pursuant to 73 P.S. §201-9.2(a) against the Defendants;
- Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 73 P.S. §201 9.2(a) against the Defendants;
- 4. Treble damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
- 5. Actual damages from the Defendants for all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent violations of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law and the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity Act and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for Plaintiff;
- 6. Punitive damages; and
- 7. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

#### TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: May 10, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Jody B. Burton

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Jody B. Burton, Esq.
Bar No.: 71681
LEMBERG & ASSOCIATES L.L.C.
1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor
Stamford, CT 06905
Telephone: (203) 653-2250
Facsimile: (877) 795-3666

7

Case ID: 100501582

# EXHIBIT B

**BALLARD SPAHR LLP** 

Martin C. Bryce, Jr. (I.D. No. 59409)

Bryce@ballardspahr.com

Keith B. Joseph (I.D. No. 203997)

JosephK@ballardspahr.com

1735 Market Street, 51st Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7599

Telephone: (215) 665-8500 Facsimile: (215) 864-8999

ALBERT DIETL,

Plaintiff,

v.

**DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES and** DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF** PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO. 10-01582

**CIVIL ACTION** 

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

#### NOTICE TO ADVERSE PARTIES OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL

To: Jody B. Burton, Esquire Lemberg & Associates LLC 1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Stamford, CT 06905 (203) 659-3424 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Defendant Discover Financial Services, acting through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), hereby gives notice to counsel for Plaintiff of the removal of this action on August 6, 2010, from the Court of Common Pleas for Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. A true and correct copy of the underlying Notice of Removal is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin C. Bryce, Jr. (PA I.D. #59409) Keith B. Joseph (PA I.D. #203997)

Bryce@ballardspahr.com JosephK@ballardspahr.com

Ballard Spahr LLP

1735 Market Street, 51st Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

Telephone: 215.665.8500

Facsimile: 215.864.8999

Attorneys for Defendant Discover Financial Services

Dated: August 6, 2010

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010, I have caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing to be served on the following via first-class mail:

Jody B. Burton, Esquire Lemberg & Associates LLC 1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Stamford, CT 06905

Attorneys for Plaintiff

B. Jan U

DMEAST #12757356 v1

## **EXHIBIT C**

**BALLARD SPAHR LLP** 

Martin C. Bryce, Jr. (I.D. No. 59409)

Bryce@ballardspahr.com

Keith B. Joseph (I.D. No. 203997)

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Philadelphia, PA 19103-7599

Telephone: (215) 665-8500 Facsimile: (215) 864-8999

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF** 

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

ALBERT DIETL,

Plaintiff.

v.

NO. 10-01582

DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

DOES 1-10, inclusive,

**CIVIL ACTION** 

Defendants.

: JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

#### **NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

To:

THE PROTHONOTARY

OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant Discover Financial Services, by its undersigned counsel, has filed a Notice of Removal of this action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), "the State Court shall proceed no further unless and until the case is remanded." A true and correct copy of the underlying Notice of Removal is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin C. Bryce, Jr. (PA I.D. #59409) Keith B. Joseph (PA I.D. #203997)

Bryce@ballardspahr.com JosephK@ballardspahr.com

Ballard Spahr LLP

1735 Market Street, 51<sup>st</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

Telephone: 215.665.8500 Facsimile: 215.864.8999

Attorneys for Defendant Discover Financial Services

Dated: August 6, 2010

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this  $6^{th}$  day of August, 2010, I have caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing to be served on the following via first-class mail:

Jody B. Burton, Esquire Lemberg & Associates LLC 1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Stamford, CT 06905

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Keith B. Joseph

B. Joseph

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this  $6^{th}$  day of August, 2010, I have caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing to be served on the following via first-class mail:

Jody B. Burton, Esquire Lemberg & Associates LLC 1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Stamford, CT 06905

Attorneys for Plaintiff

B. Gorden

DMEAST #12759939 v1